

Patent Application Serial No. 10/589,129

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A drying apparatus comprising
a heat pump apparatus in which a refrigerant is circulated through a compressor, a
radiator, a first throttle apparatus, a heat exchanger, a second throttle apparatus and an evaporator
in this order,
a circulation duct through which drying air is circulated and in which said radiator, said
heat exchanger and said evaporator are disposed in this order from upstream side of flow of the
drying air, and
a drying room connected to said circulation duct,
wherein the refrigerant in the heat exchanger absorbs heat from the drying air or radiates
heat to the drying air.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An operating method of a heat pump apparatus in the
drying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heat exchanger is used as a second
evaporator or a second radiator by operating said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle
apparatus.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The drying apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising discharge pressure detecting means for detecting discharge pressure of the
compressor, and throttle apparatus control means for controlling said first throttle apparatus and

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said second throttle apparatus using a detection value from said discharge pressure detecting means.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The drying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising discharge temperature detecting means for detecting discharge temperature of the compressor, and throttle apparatus control means for controlling said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus using a detection value from said discharge temperature detecting means.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The drying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising air temperature detecting means for detecting inlet air temperature of said evaporator, and throttle apparatus control means for controlling said first throttle apparatus and said second throttle apparatus using a detection value from said air temperature detecting means.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The drying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a high pressure side of said heat pump apparatus is operated as a supercritical state.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The drying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein carbon dioxide is used as the refrigerant.